

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 EB-08 CU-02 /069 W
-----094919 042255Z /73

P 042231Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4348
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER AMCONSULS IN CANADA (POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 07058

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, PDEV, CA
SUBJECT: GOC REJECTS RACIAL UNITS AS BASIS FOR DEVELOPMENT
OF THE NORTH

REF: OTTAWA A-168, MARCH 12, 1976; A-193, MARCH 19, 1976
AND OTTAWA 3519

1. SUMMARY: IN AUGUST 3 POLICY STATEMENT FOR
CONSTITUTIONAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH, GOC
FLATLY REJECTS INDIAN AND INUIT DEMANDS FOR AUTONOMOUS,
RACIALLY-BASED POLITICAL JURISDICTIONS AND FOR OWNERSHIP
OF SUBSURFACE RESOURCES. INSTEAD IT OFFERS GREATER SELF-
GOVERNMENT FOR YUKON AND NWT; QUALIFIED PROTECTION OF
NATIVE POLITICAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS; FEDERAL OWNERSHIP
OF SUBSURFACE RESOURCES, WITH REVENUE SHARING; REGIONAL
AND LOCAL MANAGEMENT OF SURFACE RESOURCES AND MODIFICATION
OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF TERRITORIES TO BACK UP
DEVOLUTION OF POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO TERRITORIAL
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. STATEMENT REFLECTS STRONG LEAD BY
TRUDEAU, WHO WANTS ABOVE ALL TO AVOID POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL
SEPARATIST PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

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2. GOC ANNOUNCED POLICY FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH AUGUST 3. POLICY WILL BE
IMPLEMENTED IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (NWT) FOLLOWING
CONSULTATIONS TO BE CONDUCTED IN NORTHERN COMMUNITIES BY
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES DRURY, FORMER MINISTER OF
PUBLIC WORKS AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY. BASIC POLICY FRAMEWORK ALSO APPLIES TO YUKON

TERRITORY, BUT WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED THERE UNTIL FURTHER DETAILS ARE WORKED OUT.

3. CONSULTATION WITH NORTHERN COMMUNITIES WILL LOOK TOWARD CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE WITHIN FOLLOWING PARAMETERS:

A. POSSIBLE DIVISION OF NWT ON BASIS OF FUNCTIONAL FACTORS, INCLUDING ECONOMIC, SOCIO-CULTURAL AND OTHER FACTORS, BUT EXCLUDING POLITICAL DIVISIONS AND POLITICAL STRUCTURES BASED SOLELY ON RACIAL DISTINCTIONS;

B. PHASED REORGANIZATION OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS TO ACHIEVE GREATER DEGREE OF LOCALLY RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT FOR NWT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO POSSIBLE CHANGE IN COMPOSITION AND JURISDICTION OF TERRITORIAL COUNCIL, COMPOSITION AND ROLE OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLE OF COMMISSIONER, FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND RESERVE POWERS OF FEDERAL CABINET;

C. TRANSFER AND DELEGATION OF FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROGRAMS TO TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS;

D. DEVOLUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS FROM TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT TO COMMUNITIES, WITH COMMUNITY OPTION OF CREATING REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES. (NOTE: THESE WILL PROBABLY RESEMBLE REGIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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BOROUGH GOVERNMENTS IN ALASKA.);

E. STATUTORY SAFEGUARDS FOR NATIVE INTERESTS INCLUDING LANGUAGE, CULTURAL AND TRADITIONAL PURSUITS;

F. ARRANGEMENTS TO PROMOTE NATIVE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS, CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES, MUNICIPAL WARD SYSTEM, REPRESENTATION ON SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND IN PUBLIC SERVICE;

G. POLITICAL ROLE, IF ANY, OF NATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS DERIVING FROM CLAIMS SETTLEMENT WILL BE DISCUSSED;

H. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO OWN AND MANAGE NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES, WITH SHARING OF RESOURCE REVENUES TO BE DETERMINED BY CLAIMS SETTLEMENTS AND GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENTS.

I. DECENTRALIZATION OF SURFACE LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES WITH INSTITUTIONALIZED ARRANGEMENTS FOR JOINTLY-

PLANNED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

J. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS, LARGELY READJUSTMENT OF FEDERAL BUDGETARY SUPPORT, TO IMPLEMENT PLANNED CHANGES.

4. COMMENT. POLICY STATEMENT REPRESENTS RECOGNITION BY GOC THAT PRESSURES AND POLITICAL TENSION IN THE NWT RESULTING FROM DEMAND FOR MORE SELF-GOVERNMENT, DRIVE FOR MORE POLITICAL POWER BY NATIVE PEOPLES, AND NEED TO DIRECT AND PACE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN ECONOMY HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF HAND. DEMANDS OF NWT INDIAN BROTHERHOOD AND INUIT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 07058

TAPIRISAT GO FAR BEYOND ANY POLICY GOC IS WILLING TO FOLLOW. GOC BELIEVES IT MUST REASSERT POLITICAL CONTROL IT LOST DURING STRUGGLE IN MACKENZIE VALLEY OVER PIPELINE DECISION.

5. MOST IMPORTANT FEATURE OF POLICY STATEMENT IS THAT IT FLATLY REJECTS NATIVE DEMANDS FOR AUTONOMOUS, RACIALLY BASED, SELF-GOVERNING ENTITIES IN FAR NORTH AND THE RADICAL IDEOLOGY UNDERLYING THESE DEMANDS, MOST PARTICULARLY THE DENE NATION CLAIM. RATHER IT STRESSES THAT ANY LEGISLATION PROPOSED FOR ESTABLISHING LEGAL RIGHTS AND POLITICAL SAFEGUARDS FOR NATIVES SHOULD STRIKE A FINE BALANCE BETWEEN MINORITY AND MAJORITY RIGHTS. EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS ITS REJECTION OF NATIVE DEMANDS FOR OWNERSHIP OF NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES. GOVERNMENT SOURCES TELL US THAT IN PREPARING POLICY TRUDEAU AND OTHER MEMBERS OF CABINET OVERRODE INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS MINISTER ALLMAND, ON THE GROUND THAT STEPS TOWARDS CREATION OF NATIVE "HOMELANDS" WOULD SET UP NEW SEPARATIST PROBLEMS.

ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONSTITUTION, POLICIES, MINORITIES
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA07058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770283-0692
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 OTTAWA A-168
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1708759
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOC REJECTS RACIAL UNITS AS BASIS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH
TAGS: ENRG, PDEV, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7aa0fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009